

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing method for processing an input job in parallel by a plurality of color image output apparatus, comprising:

- 5 a developing step of developing input image data into bit map image data,

wherein said developing step includes first and second modes, wherein the first mode develops the input image data a plurality of times by using a color
10 processing condition corresponding to each of the plurality of color image output apparatus, and wherein the second mode develops the input image data by using an optional color processing condition and outputs a result obtained in said developing step to the
15 plurality of color image output apparatus.

2. An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein the optional color processing condition is a color processing condition corresponding to one of the
20 plurality of color image output apparatus.

3. An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein the optional color processing condition is a color processing condition corresponding to a
25 combination of the plurality of color image output apparatus.

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4. An image processing method according to claim
3, wherein the optional color processing condition is
average values of color processing conditions
corresponding to the plurality of color image output
5 apparatus.

5. An image processing method according to claim
3, further comprising a distributing process of
distributing the input job to the plurality of color
10 image output apparatus, wherein the optional color
processing condition is determined by performing a
weighing process of the color processing condition
corresponding to each of the color image output
apparatus in accordance with a distribution condition
15 of said distributing process.

6. An image processing apparatus for processing
an input job in parallel by a plurality of color image
output apparatus, comprising:
20 means for developing input image data into bit map
image data; and
selecting means for selecting either a first mode
or a second mode in said developing means,
wherein the first mode develops the input image
25 data a plurality of times by using a color processing
condition corresponding to each of the plurality of
color image output apparatus, and wherein the second

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mode develops the input image data by using an optional color processing condition and outputs a result obtained by said developing means to the plurality of color image output apparatus.

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7. A storage medium storing a program for realizing an image processing method for processing an input job in parallel by a plurality of color image output apparatus, the program comprising:

10 a developing step of developing input image data into bit map image data, said developing step providing a first mode and a second mode,

wherein the first mode develops the input image data a plurality of times by using a color processing condition corresponding to each of the plurality of
15 color image output apparatus, and wherein the second mode develops the input image data by using an optional color processing condition and outputs a result obtained in said developing step to the plurality of
20 color image output apparatus.

8. An image processing method for processing an input job in parallel by a plurality of color image output apparatus, comprising:

25 a developing step of developing input image data into bit map image data for a first color image output apparatus; and

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a converting step of converting the bit map image data for the first color image output apparatus into bit map image data for a second color image output apparatus,

- 5 wherein the bit map image data for the first color image output apparatus developed in said developing step is transferred to the first color image output apparatus, and wherein the bit map image data for the second color image output apparatus converted in said
- 10 converting step is transferred to the second color image output apparatus.

9. An image processing method according to claim 8, wherein the plurality of color image output
- 15 apparatus are of the same type, and said developing step performs a color matching process by using profiles corresponding to the type of the plurality of color image output apparatus, and wherein said
- 20 converting step performs a conversion matching gradation characteristics of the first and second color image output apparatus.

10. An image processing method according to claim 9, wherein the gradation characteristics of the first
- 25 color image output apparatus are calibrated by a calibration process.

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11. An image processing method according to claim
8, wherein said developing step performs a color
adjustment process corresponding to the first color
image output apparatus and a gradation correction
5 process matching the first color image output
apparatus.

12. An image processing apparatus for processing
an input job in parallel by a plurality of color image
output apparatus, comprising:

developing means for developing input image data
into bit map image data for a first color image output
apparatus; and

converting means for converting the bit map image
15 data for the first color image output apparatus into
bit map image data for a second color image output
apparatus,

wherein the bit map image data for the first color
image output apparatus developed by said developing
20 means is transferred to the first color image output
apparatus, and wherein the bit map image data for the
second color image output apparatus converted by said
converting means step is transferred to the second
color image output apparatus.

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13. A storage medium storing a program for
realizing an image processing method for processing an

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input job in parallel by a plurality of color image output apparatus, the program comprising:

a developing step of developing input image data into bit map image data for a first color image output apparatus; and

a converting step of converting the bit map image data for the first color image output apparatus into bit map image data for a second color image output apparatus,

wherein the bit map image data for the first color image output apparatus developed by said developing function is transferred to the first color image output apparatus, and wherein the bit map image data for the second color image output apparatus converted in said converting step is transferred to the second color image output apparatus.

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